

**PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
WASHINGTON, DC VISIT
APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2008**

Wednesday, April 30

- 8:00am- Breakfast Briefing for **all County participants**
9:00am Grand Hyatt Hotel, Penn Quarter A
1000 H Street, N.W.
- 2:00pm Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding, Climate Change
*Appropriations/Labor, HHS, Education; Transportation-HUD;
& Homeland Security Subs with jurisdiction over Medicaid, CDBG, &
Section 8*
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
- 2:30pm Rep. Jane Harman (D-36)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding, Climate Change
*Energy & Commerce/Energy & Air Quality Sub; Chair Homeland
Security/Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment
Subcmte.; Border, Maritime & Global Counterterrorism Subs.*
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
- 3:00pm Rep. Henry Waxman (D-30)
Issues: Medicaid, Climate Change
*Chair, Oversight & Government Reform with oversight of executive branch;
Energy & Commerce Cmte. which has jurisdiction over Medicaid)*
2203 Rayburn House Office Building (Subcommittee Room)
- 3:30pm Rep. Maxine Waters (D-35)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding
*Chair, Financial Services/Housing & Community Opportunity Sub with
jurisdiction over CDBG & Section 8 reform; Judiciary/Crime Sub
& Immigration Sub.*
2344 Rayburn House Office Building

Wednesday, April 30 (cont.)

- 4:30pm Senator Barbara Boxer (D)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding, Climate Change
Chair, Environment & Public Works with jurisdiction over transportation (excluding transit), highways, waterways, & civil works programs administered by the Army Corps of Engineers; Commerce/Aviation Operations, Safety & Security; Interstate Commerce, Trade & Tourism Subs; Foreign Relations & Ethics Cmtes.
112 Hart Senate Office Building
- 5:00pm Senator Dianne Feinstein (D)
(Principals Only)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding, Climate Change
Chair, Rules & Administration; Chair, Appropriations/Interior, Environment Sub; Commerce-Justice-Science; Energy & Water; & Transportation-HUD; Defense; and Agriculture Subs; Chair, Judiciary/Terrorism, Technology & Homeland Security; Crime & Drugs; Immigration & Border Security & Refugees Subs; Member, Intelligence Cmte.
331 Hart Senate Office Building

Thursday, May 1

- 10:30am Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-38)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding
Chair, Natural Resources/Water & Power Sub; Transportation & Infrastructure/Highways & Transit; Railroads; Water Resources Subs.
1610 Longworth House Office Building
- 11:00am Rep. David Dreier (R-26)
Issues: Medicaid, SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding
House Rules Committee (Ranking Republican)
1628 Longworth House Office Building
- 1:30pm Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)
(P) Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
(Principals Only)
Issues: SCAAP, Anti-Gang Funding
2426 Rayburn House Office Building

Note: Changes and additions to this schedule of meetings will be posted on the door April 30 and May 1 of the Los Angeles County Office, 25 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 560, Washington, DC 20001.

FEDERAL ISSUES

APRIL 2008



Board of Supervisors

Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Second District

Gloria Molina
First District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

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MORATORIUM ON MEDICAID REGULATIONS

Position

The County supports extending the current moratorium on new Medicaid regulations which would cap payments to public hospitals and eliminate Medicaid reimbursement of Graduate Medical Education costs.

Background

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) operates the nation's second largest local public hospital system, and serves as the primary health care provider to the County's uninsured and indigent residents. DHS provides medical care to nearly 700,000 individual patients and is responsible for approximately 2.5 million outpatient visits each year. Its hospitals train 40 percent of all medical residents in the County, and provide 36 percent of all trauma care and 10 percent of all emergency room visits in the County.

Medicaid is, by far, the single largest source of revenue for public hospitals, including the County's. In recognition of their key role in providing medical care to the indigent and uninsured as well as to Medicaid recipients, public hospitals are allowed to receive Medicaid payments that exceed the cost of medical care provided to Medicaid recipients. In addition, public hospitals provide critical high cost services, such as trauma, neo-natal, HIV/AIDS, and burn care. All teaching hospitals, including the County's public hospitals, also have been allowed to claim Medicaid reimbursement of Graduate Medical Education (GME) costs in recognition of essential medical care provided by residents and interns to Medicaid patients.

On January 18, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to limit Medicaid payments to government providers to no more than the cost of providing services to Medicaid recipients, and, on May 23, 2007, CMS issued a proposed rule to eliminate Medicaid reimbursement of GME costs. The County has opposed both proposed rules on the grounds that CMS lacks the authority to limit Medicaid payments, as proposed, and that the proposed rules would greatly reduce Medicaid funding for safety net hospitals, endangering the patients and communities served by them.

Moratorium: As part of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 Iraq War Supplemental Appropriations Bill (Public Law 110-28), Congress included a County-supported provision prohibiting the CMS from taking any action to promulgate, finalize, or implement any rule which would limit Medicaid payments to government providers or eliminate Medicaid reimbursement of GME costs for one year after the bill's enactment. This moratorium expires on May 25, 2008 -- one year after the date that the bill was signed into law and after CMS issued a final rule to limit Medicaid payments to

government providers despite the statutory moratorium on the finalization of such a rule.
The County strongly supports an extension of this moratorium into next year.

County Impacts: If implemented, both regulations would result in an estimated total combined annual Medicaid revenue loss of \$240 million -- \$200 million from the cap on Medicaid payments to public hospitals and \$40 million from the elimination of Medicaid reimbursement of GME costs. We estimate that the implementation of these onerous regulations would equate to significant reductions in hospital-based outpatient services and/or to the closure of one of our major teaching hospitals, including its emergency room (ER) and trauma center, a potential loss of some 90,000 ER visits annually.

Status

The County joined numerous other state and local governments and health providers in submitting comments opposing proposed rules which would cap Medicaid payments to government providers, including public hospitals, and eliminate Medicaid reimbursement of GME costs. A number of bills, which have bipartisan support, have been introduced to extend the current moratorium on these rules, including H.R. 5613 (Dingell, D-MI), H.R. 3533 (Engel, D-NY), S. 2460 (Bingaman, D-NM), and S. 2819 (Rockefeller, D-WV). On April 9, 2008, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee approved, on a voice vote, H.R. 5613, which would extend the moratorium on these and five other Medicaid regulations through April 1, 2009. The Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid in the Senate, has not yet taken any action on either S. 2460 or S. 2819.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRUCE CHERNOF, M.D.,
DIRECTOR AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
AT (213) 240-8101.

STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

Position

The County supports increased funding to fully reimburse state and local criminal alien incarceration costs under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

Background

State and local taxpayers should not have to pay for criminal justice costs resulting from the Federal government's inability to control illegal immigration. The 1994 Crime Act established the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to reimburse state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens. If total eligible state and local costs exceed available SCAAP funding, each jurisdiction is reimbursed on a pro rata basis.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, SCAAP is funded at \$410 million, far below SCAAP's annual authorization level of \$950 million. It also is well below the \$577 million in average annual SCAAP funds appropriated in FYs 1998 through 2002. Because total state and local undocumented criminal alien incarceration costs have been growing significantly since that time, state and local governments are reimbursed by SCAAP for an ever smaller portion of their total costs. While the County incurs an estimated total annual cost of over \$100 million for the incarceration of criminal undocumented aliens, its most recent SCAAP payment was only \$15.1 million in FY 2007. The application period for FY 2008 SCAAP funding, which will reimburse costs incurred between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, began in late March, and will end on May 2, 2008. Before FY 2008 SCAAP payments are made, the Department of Justice (DOJ), with assistance from the Department of Homeland Security, will determine each jurisdiction's countable costs and payments, based on the cost and inmate data submitted by state and local governments.

The inadequate SCAAP funding levels have resulted in an unfair shift in costs to state and local governments, especially in California, which receives about 40 percent of total SCAAP funding. Every dollar spent by the County on jailing criminal aliens that is not reimbursed by SCAAP means a dollar less that can be spent on other essential public safety services, such as police protection, anti-terrorism, and anti-gang activities. The State of California similarly has been hurt by inadequate SCAAP reimbursement. The State estimates that it will incur more than \$900 million in undocumented felon costs not reimbursed by SCAAP that will require offsetting spending cuts in FY 2008-09. State and local criminal alien incarceration costs, therefore, should be fully reimbursed under SCAAP rather than eliminated as proposed in the President's FY 2009 Budget.

Status

Similar to previous proposed budgets, the President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget would eliminate SCAAP. Congress has not yet begun action on the FY 2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill, which would fund SCAAP and other DOJ programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHERIFF LEE BACA AT (323) 526-5000.

ANTI-GANG LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

Position

The County supports expanded Federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts with increased Federal resources targeted at heavily gang-impacted areas, as provided in pending anti-gang legislation, S. 456 (Feinstein)/H.R. 3547 (Schiff).

Background

Los Angeles County has more than 1,000 street gangs and 80,000 gang members, which is more than 10 percent of the approximately 760,000 gang members in the entire country, as reported by law enforcement agencies in the 2004 National Youth Gang Survey. Gang crime and violence is a major problem in the County. It is a major contributing factor which has resulted in homicide as the leading cause of death, by far, for all persons age 15 to 44 in the County. In 2006, 407 (or 42 percent) of all homicides in the County were gang-related -- a number that exceeded the total number of homicides, including those which were not gang-related, in all but 14 states. Besides resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives each year, criminal gang activity contributes greatly to juvenile delinquency, school violence, drug trafficking, criminal justice costs, medical costs, and other major problems in the County.

Gangs and gang activities pose a serious threat to public safety, not only in Los Angeles County, but also across the country. However, to date, combating and responding to criminal gang activity have largely been left to state and local law enforcement with relatively little Federal involvement and financial support. While Byrne Justice Assistance Grant and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds may be used for anti-gang activities, there currently are only two small anti-gang programs: the Anti-Gang Initiative under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program, which provided a total of \$31.765 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 grants to state and local governments, and the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, which provided \$14.659 million in FY 2007 grants. The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget, however, would eliminate over 70 state and local grant programs, including the programs cited above.

Increased Federal Funding: The County supports greater Federal collaboration with state and local governments to address gangs and gang violence as well as increased Federal anti-gang funding, which should be targeted at heavily gang-impacted areas, such as Los Angeles. The County, therefore, supports comprehensive anti-gang legislation, such as S. 456 (Feinstein) and H.R. 3547 (Schiff), which would authorize more than \$1 billion in funding for gang enforcement, prevention, and intervention programs over five years.

Both bills authorize funding for a new High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Area Program, which would fund collaborative Federal, state, and local working groups to investigate and prosecute gangs and provide community-based intervention and prevention services to at-risk youth in heavily gang-impacted areas. They also authorize funding for a new gang prevention grant program, new witness protection program, and for expansion of PSN's Anti-Gang Initiative, all of which would be subject to available annual appropriations.

If enacted and funded, S. 456 or H.R. 3547 should provide increased Federal funding for anti-gang efforts in the County, especially to the extent that additional resources would be targeted at heavily gang-impacted areas. The County also would benefit from other provisions in the bills, which expand the Federal role in investigating and prosecuting gang-related crime, make it a Federal crime to participate in criminal street crimes, and establish tougher penalties for violent gang crimes. All of this would complement and support the County's Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy, which seeks to address gangs and gang violence through a coordinated and multi-jurisdictional partnership that includes gang suppression, intervention, and prevention initiatives and services.

Status

The Senate passed S. 456 on unanimous consent on September 21, 2007. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, which has not scheduled any action on any anti-gang legislation, including S. 456 and H.R. 3547.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHERIFF LEE BACA AT (323) 526-5000.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION AND LOCAL FUNDING

Position

The County supports the national goal of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The County supports climate change legislation which includes funding to help local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also supports full funding of \$2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Background

On October 23, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to designate Los Angeles as a “Cool County” to participate in a program with a coalition of counties throughout the nation to focus on the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that threaten to produce unacceptable changes in our climate and environment. Los Angeles County currently is one of 30 counties across the country participating in this program.

As part of the County’s commitment in becoming a “Cool County”, the County pledged to “urge Congress to enact a national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050.” Both the House and the Senate are in the process of fashioning legislation that would address climate change.

It is increasingly recognized that local governments, such as the County, are at the forefront of climate change initiatives. For example, the County has adopted numerous measures that will combat climate change, including adopting a goal to reduce energy consumption in County facilities by 20 percent by 2015 and requiring that all new County buildings be “green” certified. A proposed ordinance to similarly require a “green” certification for new private developments in unincorporated County areas also has been developed. Notwithstanding the role of local governments, none of the major bills addressing climate change provide any funding mechanism for local government initiatives.

At the same time, local governments are urging full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, which was included in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140) and supported by the County. This block grant authorizes \$2 billion a year to assist state and local governments in increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Under the bill, 68 percent of total available funding is allocated directly to more populous counties and cities which are entitled to direct funding.

Status

The Senate is expected to take up climate change legislation within the next several months. The House Energy & Commerce Committee also will begin to draft legislation.

Thirty Senators, including Senator Boxer, have agreed to sign a “Dear Colleague” letter urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to include full funding in the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TOM TINDALL, INTERIM DIRECTOR, INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AT (323) 267-2101.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

Position

The County supports Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula grant funding of at least \$4.1 billion in Fiscal Year 2009.

Background

The President's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget would cut Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula grants by 18 percent. Reducing CDBG funding would adversely affect Los Angeles County's economically disadvantaged residents. The County has a higher poverty rate (15.4 percent) for individuals than the nation as a whole (13.3 percent) according to the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.

The Community Development Block Grant funds are used for a wide range of housing, community and economic development, social services, and job creation activities, mainly for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons. Except for set-asides, CDBG funds are allocated, by formula, to state and local governments, which have broad flexibility over their use to meet locally determined needs. A combined total of \$157.9 million in FY 2008 CDBG formula grant funding was allotted to local governments in Los Angeles County, including \$29.6 million to the County's Community Development Commission (CDC), which administers CDBG funds for unincorporated areas and 47 of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County.

Over the past five years, the CDC has used CDBG funds for community and economic development projects and public infrastructure improvements, and to assist Los Angeles County residents by:

PRESERVING HOUSING:

- Rehabilitating over 7,516 housing units;

CREATING JOBS:

- Creating and preserving over 1,335 jobs;

PROVIDING NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION:

- Removing over 33 million square feet of graffiti; and

ASSISTING BUSINESSES:

- Providing loans and technical assistance to over 9,000 small businesses.

Since FY 2001, CDBG formula grant funding has declined from \$4.41 billion to \$3.586 billion in FY 2008. CDBG funding administered by CDC has been diminished by approximately 24 percent from \$38.8 million in FY 2001 to \$29.6 million in FY 2008. If enacted, the Administration's proposed FY 2009 CDBG budget reduction would result in the County receiving 38 percent less than it did in FY 2001.

Instead of reducing CDBG funding as proposed by the Administration, Congress should appropriate at least \$4.1 billion for CDBG formula grants in FY 2009. This funding level, which is supported by a broad coalition of community development associations and local governments, is roughly equal to the average annual CDBG funding level in FYs 2001 through 2005.

Status

The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget would reduce CDBG formula grant funding by 18 percent. Congress has not yet begun action on the FY 2009 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, which would fund CDBG.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CARLOS JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AT (323) 890-7400.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

Position

The County supports Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding of at least \$654 million in Fiscal Year 2009.

Background

The President's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget would eliminate the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which strengthens communities by assisting low-income individuals to become self-sufficient. CSBG was funded at approximately \$654 million in FY 2008.

CSBG funds are allocated, by formula, to states, which are required to pass through at least 90 percent of their allotments to eligible entities, which primarily are Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Such agencies have broad flexibility over the use of funds to provide a wide range of anti-poverty services, including services addressing employment, education, housing, energy, nutrition, homelessness, and health needs. In FY 2008, California received a CSBG allotment of \$58 million of which a combined total of \$15 million was allotted to the four CAAs and the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission, which serve Los Angeles County.

The County's Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), which is one of the four CAAs, received \$6.4 million in FY 2008 CSBG funding to serve all areas of the County except for the Cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Duarte, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Arcadia, and South Pasadena and the unincorporated area of Altadena, which are served by other CAAs. DPSS uses these funds to provide a wide range of services, such as employment, nutrition, domestic violence, youth, and mental health services, to low-income persons through 92 contracts with community-based organizations.

The proposed elimination of CSBG would have a major adverse impact on the poor, who are the program's beneficiaries. In California, CSBG funds services to more than two million poor residents each year. The overall fiscal impact of eliminating CSBG would far exceed its annual funding level because the program is extremely effective in leveraging additional resources. In FY 2004, nationally, every grant dollar was matched by \$15.25 from other sources, including in-kind and volunteer services provided by the community-based organizations that receive CSBG funding. Instead of eliminating the program, Congress should appropriate at least \$654 million for CSBG in FY 2009, the same amount as in FY 2008.

Status

The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget would eliminate the Community Services Block Grant. Congress has not yet begun action on the FY 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill, which would fund CSBG.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PHILIP L. BROWNING, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AT (562) 908-8383.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING

County Position

The County supports increased homeland security grant funding for state and local governments.

Background

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, there has been an intense Federal effort to improve homeland security, including through the creation of the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and DHS-administered programs, such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), which provide grants to assist state and local governments with their efforts to prepare, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. Such funding is especially important to Los Angeles County, which has the most residents and first responders of any county, and also faces the greatest risk of being struck by a variety of disasters, ranging from terrorist attacks and refinery explosions to earthquakes, brush fires, and floods. The County has major potential terrorist targets, including internationally known landmarks and critical infrastructure, such as the nation's largest port complex (Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles).

President's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget: Overall funding for DHS state and local grants would be reduced from \$3.5 billion in FY 2008 to \$1.9 billion under the President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget. The budget reductions include: SHSGP would be cut from \$890 million in FY 2008 to \$200 million; Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) from \$300 million to \$200 million; and Interoperable Communications Grants, funded at \$70 million in FY 2008, would be eliminated. The only major state or local homeland security grant which would not be cut is the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant, which would be increased from \$820 million to \$825 million in FY 2009.

The County believes that homeland security grant funding for state and local governments should be increased rather than reduced. Homeland security grant allocations for FY 2008 have not yet been made. However, assuming that the County's share of total funding will be same as in FY 2007, the County's SHSGP funding would be cut by \$15 million to only \$4.4 million in FY 2009. Far more funding is needed to fulfill the program's mission of building capabilities to prepare, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters, especially in the 4,084 square mile Los Angeles County, which has more than 34,000 first responders who serve and protect more than ten million residents – a population larger than all but eight states.

Funding for interoperable communications is especially needed by our region where a patchwork of stand-alone communications systems which use separate radio towers, equipment, and frequencies primarily designed to meet the interoperability needs of each of the 54 law enforcement agencies and 31 fire departments that serve different jurisdictions and areas of the County. Much of the communications equipment is

obsolete and incompatible. As a result, first responders have a limited ability to communicate with each other, which hampers emergency response when there is a major disaster which affects multiple jurisdictions, such as the urban riots in 1992 and Northridge earthquake in 1994. To address this problem, the public safety community has begun to develop the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), a modern, integrated wireless voice and data communications system.

SHSGP and UASI funds are being used to help finance LA-RICS, which will cost an estimated \$600 million to complete. In addition, any funding received under the new Interoperable Communications Grant, which was funded for the first time at \$70 million in FY 2008, could be used for LA-RICS. The County, therefore, supports funding for the SHSGP, UASI, and Interoperable Communications Grant programs in FY 2009 at the levels authorized by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (H.R. 1), which was enacted last year: \$950 million for SHSGP; \$950 million for UASI, and \$400 million for the Interoperable Communications Grant.

Status

The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget would greatly reduce overall funding for homeland security grants to state and local governments. Congress has not yet begun action on the FY 2009 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WILLIAM T. FUJIOKA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AT (213) 974-1101.

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Position

The County supports increased law enforcement funding, such as Justice Assistance Grants, for state and local governments.

Background

Los Angeles County operates the nation's largest local criminal justice system. The Sheriff's Department incarcerates more inmates than any other local jurisdiction, and also provides law enforcement services in all unincorporated areas and, under contract, to 40 cities, 47 courthouses, nine community colleges, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The County also runs the nation's largest local prosecutorial, indigent defense, and probation systems.

The County's need for Federal justice assistance funding is high relative to other communities because, in addition to our major criminal justice system responsibilities, the County's crime rate has been significantly above the national average. In 2006, only four states, excluding California, had more violent crimes than Los Angeles County, and only one of those states (Florida) had a higher violent crime rate than the County, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation crime data. The County also accounted for nearly six percent of all murders nationally in 2006. Excluding California, Florida and Texas were the only states which had a greater number of murders, and the County's murder rate of 10.1 per 100,000 inhabitants was higher than that of any single state.

Justice Assistance Funding: Overall Federal justice assistance funding to state and local governments, which is administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), has dropped by more than half since Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. Moreover, Congress reduced funding for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) formula grants to only \$170 million in FY 2008 — a more than two-thirds reduction from the prior year. The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget calls for the elimination of more than 70 existing Department of Justice (DOJ) state and local grant programs, including the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), Southwest Border Prosecutor Initiative (SWBPI), Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), and JAG, which are allocated by formula. These programs, which received a combined total of \$2.6 billion in FY 2008 funding, would be replaced by four new competitive grant programs that would receive a combined total of only \$865 million in FY 2009.

The County believes that funding for Federal justice assistance grants to state and local governments should be increased. We especially support increased funding for SCAAP, SWBPI, JABG, and JAG, which equitably allocate funds based on relative need. For example, the County receives a disproportionately high share of total SCAAP and SWBPI funding commensurate with its high share of total eligible costs under SCAAP, which reimburses undocumented criminal alien incarceration costs and

SWBPI, which pays for costs associated with prosecuting federally initiated and referred criminal cases. In FY 2007, the County received roughly 4 percent of total SCAAP funding and 7 percent of total SWBPI funding, nationally. In contrast, all Federal justice assistance grants awarded on a competitive basis have maximum grant limits that are extremely low relative to what the County would receive based on need.

Status

The President's Proposed FY 2009 Budget would consolidate more than 70 existing state and local justice assistance grants into four new competitive grants that would be funded at a far lower level. Congress has not yet begun action on the FY 2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill, which would fund SCAAP and other DOJ programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHERIFF LEE BACA AT (323) 526-5000, OR DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE COOLEY AT (213) 974-3501.